

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS STATE 149709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SCUL, OTRA, NI

SUBJECT:AMERICAN FORUM PROGRAM IN NIGERIA (DRIMMER, MELVIN)

1. CLEVELAND-BASED AMERICAN FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY IS HOLDING THREE-WEEK AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM, BEGINNING JULY 27, AT UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.
2. PROGRAM DIRECTOR LEO V. RYAN ARRIVING LAGOS ON OR ABOUT JULY 19 TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 50 TO 65 PARTICIPANTS. DR. RYAN IS FORMER PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IN NIGERIA. WORKING WITH HIM WILL BE PROFESSOR R. G. ARMSTRONG, HEAD OF IBADAN'S INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES, AND MS NANA SCHECHIBE OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, WHOSE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION GIVES GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE CREDITS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.
3. DR. MELVIN DRIMMER, AFRICAN FORUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLANS TO ACCOMPANY PARTICIPANTS TO NIGERIA, ARRIVING JULY 26.
4. DRIMMER, DURING VISIT TO DEPARTMENT, MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING UNCLASSIFIED

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NIGERIAN PROGRAM. INCLUDED WERE REQUESTS FOR GROUP MEET-

INGS WITH AMBASSADOR REINHARDT; RANKING NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; LEADING NIGERIAN ARTISTS, WRITERS, AND

EDUCATORS. VISITS TO SCHOOLS, HEALTH CARE AND CHILDREN CENTERS ALSO SUGGESTED.

5. DRIMMER SAID PARTICIPANTS INTERESTED IN NIGERIAN MASS COMMUNICATIONS, ESPECIALLY EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION, AND PLANNING FOR 1975 BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL.

6. FORUM PARTICIPANTS LAST YEAR MET DURO LADIPO AND SAW PERFORMANCE OF HIS GROUP. ALSO HAD AUDIENCE WITH OBA OF LAGOS. SIMILAR ATTRACTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED THIS YEAR.

7. RYAN WILL VISIT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS PROGRAM AND TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS. FORUM HAS FUNDS FOR HONORARIUMS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS AND TO DEFRAY COST OF A RECEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS, WHO ALSO WILL VISIT OSHOGBO, OYO, IFE, ABEOKUTA.

8. AMERICAN FORUM FOUNDED IN 1968 TO ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AFRICA. THIS YEAR'S GROUP CONSISTS MAINLY OF UPPER CLASSMEN AT VARIOUS AMERICAN COLLEGES, BUT INCLUDES 10 TO 15 COLLEGE FACULTY. KISSINGER

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